



Town of Arlington, Massachusetts
730 Massachusetts Ave., Arlington, MA 02476
Phone: 781-316-3000

webmaster@town.arlington.ma.us

Minutes 05/21/2012

TOWN OF ARLINGTON
BOARD OF SELECTMEN
Meeting Minutes
Monday, May 21, 2012
7:00 p.m.

Present: Mr. Greeley, Chair, Mr. Dunn, Vice Chair, Mrs. Mahon, Mr. Curro and Mr. Byrne

Also Present: Mr. Chapdelaine, Ms. Rice and Mrs. Krepelka

1. Introduction: Newly Appointed Deputy Town Manager, Andrew Flanagan
 Adam W. Chapdelaine

Mr. Chapdelaine introduced newly appointed Deputy Town Manager, Andrew Flanagan. The Board wished him well in his new position.

FOR APPROVAL

2. CONSENT AGENDA (one vote required for approval of all items)
 - a. Minutes of Meetings: May 7, 2012, May 16, 2012
 - b. Vote: Sale of Wine at Farmers' Market Applicants
 - 1) Coastal Vineyards: Dave and Linda Nielson, vintners
 61 Pardon Hill Road, South Dartmouth, MA
 - 2) Turtle Creek Winery: Kip Kumler, vintner
 P.O. Box 691, Lincoln, MA
 - 3) Still River Winery: Margot and Wade Holtzman, vintners
 104 Bolton Road, Harvard, MA
 - c. Request: Extend Closing from 11:00 p.m. to Midnight on 6/2/12
 Tango Restaurant, 464-468 Massachusetts Avenue

Mrs. Mahon moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

3. Discussion: Citizens Open Forum Policies
 Kevin F. Greeley, Chair
 Mr. Greeley recommended that we only allow residents a three minute time limit to present a concern or request under Citizens Open Forum Policies.
 Mr. Curro moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

4. CITIZENS OPEN FORUM

Except in unusual circumstances, any matter presented for consideration of the Board shall neither be acted upon, nor a decision made the night of the presentation in accordance with the policy under which the Open Forum was established.

Mr. Robert Radochia, 45 Columbia Road, asked if the Board could look into re-configuring the traffic light signals at Mill St./Mass. Ave./Jason St. and at the intersection of Park Avenue and Mass. Avenue.

When taking a left turn on Park Ave. and Mass. Ave. coming from Bow St., Lowell St., Park Ave. Ext. and Westminster Ave., it allows only three cars at a time. He feels there are horrendous backups especially during the commuting hours at these locations. His proposal would be to have Jason St. and Mill St. have their own separate 20 second signal to eliminate the backups caused by the left turning vehicles as is now the case. The lights currently are set up to cycle over when there are no vehicles cued up on Jason St. or Mill St. He feels the signal systems are in place and it is a question of adding one more cycle and sequencing the pedestrian crossing signal. The cycle time on Mass. Ave. at this location is 40 - 50 seconds and could be shortened a bit to make up for the added cycle. The Mass. Ave. cycle time in the center is 30-40 seconds. He would also suggest that the left lanes out of Mill St. and Jason St. be marked as left turn and

straight ahead and the right lane for right turn only. He also suggested the same action for Mass. Avenue and Park Avenue in the Heights which would be to add separate 20 second signals for Park Ave. south and Park Ave. north, and with the left lanes designated for left turn and straight ahead and the right lane for right turn only.

Mr. Radochia stated he has encountered this type of solution on other locations such as Winchester and Stoneham and the slight delay offsets the exasperation of not making the light because of delays caused by oncoming traffic.

Mrs. Mahon asked that said request be referred to TAC.

SO VOTED (5-0)

TRAFFIC RULES & ORDERS/OTHER BUSINESS

5. Approval: Traffic Signal Upgrades @ Intersection of Mass. Ave. & Mill St and Intersection of Summer St. & Mill St. Summer

Robert Jefferson, Fire Chief

Chief Jefferson asked permission of the Board to make public safety upgrades to the traffic signals at the intersections of Mass. Ave. at Mill Street and Summer St at Mill St. He stated an Opticom system allows public response vehicles, fire and police, to control the signal when responding through those intersections.

The Board voted approval of the traffic signal upgrade at the intersection of Summer St. & Mill Street and also approved the intersection of Mass. Avenue and Mill Street, subject to the approval of the Transportation Advisory Committee.

Mr. Dunn moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

6. Request: Permission to Work with Project Landscape Architects for Streetscape Changes in Capitol Square Capitol

Jan Whitted, Capitol Square Business Association

Don Benjamin, Arlington Public Art Committee

The Committee believes that there are opportunities to do more with this project (Mass. Ave. Corridor Project) than repair roads and widen sidewalks. They feel they have the opportunity to make streetscape changes that will have a lasting impact on the quality of community life in Capitol Square - at no additional costs to the project, as it is currently defined. These changes will position Arlington to earn designation as a Massachusetts Cultural District in the future.

The changes include such items as the following:

1. Specifying street fixtures (benches, lampposts, bike racks, that will lend themselves to future public art installations. In some cases, where standard fixtures have been specified, more artful options could be substituted (with funds for any differences in price raised by the business community).

2. Specifying the placement of fixtures to accommodate plans for community events, in consultation with business leaders.

3. Providing conduits for lighting so that tree can be connected from the ground up rather than depending on overhead wires.
4. Type and placement of plantings to coordinate with the streetscape envisioned by business leaders.
Mrs. Mahon asked the Committee to meet with the Commission on Disabilities in case there are guidelines to be met.
Mrs. Mahon moved receipt of Public Art Committee report. SO VOTED (5-0)

7. Draft Policy: Beer & Wine Sales in Theatres
Juliana Rice, Town Counsel

The Board voted to approve the following license fees:

The amount of annual license fees shall be tiered based on the number of days per year that the applicant expects to be open, as follows:

up to 49 days	\$750.00
50-99 days	1,250.00
100 days or more	1,750.00

The annual license fee will be prorated by 50% for licenses granted in 2012.

The Board will reduce the annual license fee by \$200 for applicants who demonstrate successful completion of a certified server-training program. The Board also reserves the right to adjust any of the fees listed above from year to year.

Mr. Curro moved approval.

SO VOTED (5-0)

8. Discussion: Selectmen Awards
(tabled from 4/23/12, 4/30/12 and 5/14/12 meetings)
Kevin F. Greeley, Chair
The following were appointed to the Committee:
John Hurd
George Laite
Nora Mann
Nicholas Mitropoulos
Robert Tosi, Jr.

9. Discussion: Vacancies on Arlington Committee on Tourism and Economic Development
Kevin F. Greeley, Chair
Mrs. Mahon asked Mrs. Krepelka to advertise for the three (3) vacancies.
Mr. Byrne moved approval. SO VOTED (5-0)

10. Vote: Committee Assignments
Kevin F. Greeley, Chair
Mr. Greeley nominated Mr. Dunn to the Tree Committee
Mr. Greeley nominated Mr. Bryne to the Financial Coordination Committee
Mr. Greeley stated he would represent the Selectmen on the Tri-Community Working Group.
Mrs. Mahon moved approval. SO VOTED (5-0)

Addendum

1. Ballot Question: Leaf Blowers
2. Mr. Greeley asked members of the Board if they would consider placing a nonbinding question on the regular spring 2013 ballot. Mr. Greeley stated that he feels getting the opinion of the citizens of Arlington on a question such as this is worthwhile.

The Board voted 4-1 against with Mr. Greeley being the only member to support putting a question on ballot.

Mr. Dunn stated that it doesn't seem right for the Board to put an opinion question on the ballot every time something is controversial. He also stated that the leaf blower opponents did not attend the Selectmen Warrant Article Hearings to discuss the article before Town Meeting began.

Mr. Byrne suggested that the Landscapers call a Special Town Meeting instead of a special election.

A group of Arlington residents and landscapers appeared before the Board regarding the leaf-blower ban. The group was represented by Town Meeting Member George Laite, Black Diamond Landscaper Joseph Cusce, Jr. and Landscaper Joseph Kerble.

Mr. Cusce stated that the landscapers were concerned with the ramifications it's going to have on people's everyday lives as well as business owners in town. He stated that landscaping costs will rise because of the ban and those costs would be passed along to customers. Mr. Cusce stated that landscapers and residents have gathered almost 1200 signatures. They stated that they had plans to collect enough signatures to ask for a special election regarding Town Meeting's recent leaf-blower ban. Mr. Laite said the matter should go before all of the town's voters. Mr. Laite stated "it's the American way - it's the democratic way, to let the voters decide."

Robert Radochia, 45 Columbia Road, spoke regarding his Substitute Motion. He stated that it is not just the noise, but the irresponsibility of landscapers that blow clouds of debris onto streets and others' properties that has residents upset. Last weekend he noticed a landscaper blowing dust at least 25' in the air; he actually thought it was a fire.

Mr. Brian Rehrig, 28 Academy Street asked the Board not to place a Town Meeting decision to a referendum.

Mr. Greeley stated that regardless of whether we have a special election, the Board at his request is planning to establish a committee to explore the issue over the next year. He stated that during conversations he had over the weekend, he believes a majority of Arlingtonians are not in favor of this ban. He stated that personally, he is against it and feels it is too dramatic of a step to take right away.

New Business

Mr. Byrne stated that last Saturday, May 12th, Bill Armstrong was honored at the Center for Cancer Support & Education's Hero of 2012. Mr. Armstrong was given this honor for his generosity to CCSE and other organizations in the town over the years.

Mrs. Mahon announced that the Arlington High Varsity Cheerleaders have been invited to participate in the Rose Bowl Parade.

Mrs. Mahon asked the Town Manager if he would speak to someone in the Senior Center regarding the replacement of old tables and chairs. She was asked by Mrs. Bergantino, a member of the Senior Center, if there are any funds available to replace some of the out-dated furniture.

Mrs. Mahon moved to adjourn at 9:05 p.m. for the purpose of going into Executive Session to discuss strategy session in preparation for negotiations with non-union personnel and pending litigation where an open meeting may have a detrimental effect on the litigating positions of the Town.

SO VOTED (5-0)

A true record: Attest

Marie A. Krepelka

Board Administrator